

OPINIONS AND DECLARATIONS RENDERED BY THE INTER- NATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

Edited by

FRANCIS HEMMING, C.M.G., C.B.E.

Secretary to the Commission

VOLUME 5. Part 4. Pp. 45—56

OPINION 243

Designation, under the Plenary Powers, for the nominal genus *Carabus* Linnaeus, 1758 (Class Insecta, Order Coleoptera) of a type species in harmony with current nomenclatorial usage



LONDON :

Printed by Order of the International Trust for
Zoological Nomenclature
and

Sold on behalf of the International Commission on Zoological
Nomenclature by the International Trust at its Publications Office
41, Queen's Gate, London, S.W.7
1954

Price Four Shillings and Sixpence

(All rights reserved)

INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

COMPOSITION AT THE TIME OF THE ADOPTION OF THE RULING GIVEN IN OPINION 243

A. The Officers of the Commission

- President* : Dr. Karl Jordan, Ph.D., F.R.S. (*British Museum (Natural History), Zoological Museum, Tring, Herts, England*).
- Vice-President* : Dr. James L. Peters (*Museum of Comparative Zoology, Cambridge, Massachusetts, U.S.A.*).
- Secretary* : Mr. Francis Hemming, C.M.G., C.B.E. (*London, England*).

B. The Members of the Commission

Class 1949

- Senor Dr. Angel CABRERA (*La Plata, Argentina*).
- Mr. Francis HEMMING (*London, England*) (*Secretary to the Commission*).
- Dr. Karl JORDAN (*British Museum (Natural History), Zoological Museum, Tring, Herts, England*) (*President of the Commission*).
- Dr. Th. MORTENSEN (*Universitetets Zoologiske Museum, Copenhagen, Denmark*).
- Dr. Joseph PEARSON (*Tasmanian Museum, Hobart, Tasmania, Australia*).

Class 1952

- Senhor Dr. Afranio do AMARAL (*S. Paulo, Brazil*).
- Professor J. Chester BRADLEY (*Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y., U.S.A.*).
- Professor Lodovico di CAPORIACCO (*University of Parma, Italy*).
- Professor J. R. DYMOND (*University of Toronto, Canada*).
- Dr. James L. PETERS (*Museum of Comparative Zoology, Cambridge, Massachusetts, U.S.A.*) (*Vice-President of the Commission*).
- Dr. Harold E. VOKES (*United States Geological Survey, Washington, D.C., U.S.A.*).

Class 1955

- Professor Dr. Hilbrand BOSCHMA (*Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, Leiden, The Netherlands*).
- Dr. William Thomas CALMAN (*Tayport, Fife, Scotland*).
- Professor Teiso ESAKI (*Kyushu University, Fukuoka, Japan*).
- Professor Béla HANKÓ (*University of Debrecen, Hungary*).
- Dr. Tadeusz JACZEWSKI (*Polish Zoological Museum, Warsaw, Poland*).
- Dr. Norman R. STOLL (*Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, Princeton, New Jersey, U.S.A.*).

C. Alternate Members of the Commission at the Session held in Paris in 1948

- Professor Enrique BELTRÁN (*Instituto Mexicano de Recursos Naturales Renovables A.C., Mexico City, Mexico*).
- Dr. Edward HINDLE (*Zoological Society of London, London, England*).
- Dr. Arturo Ricardo JORGE (*Museu Bocage, Lisbon, Portugal*).
- Professor Harold KIRBY (*University of California, Berkeley, California, U.S.A.*).
- Dr. Henning LEMCHE (*Kgl. Veterinær- og Landbohøjskole, Zoologisk Laboratorium, Copenhagen, Denmark*).
- Professor Kamel MANSOUR (*King Fouad University, Cairo, Egypt*).
- Professor Z. P. METCALF (*North Carolina State College of Agriculture and Engineering, University of North Carolina, Raleigh, North Carolina, U.S.A.*).
- Mr. N. D. RILEY (*British Museum (Natural History), London, England*).
- Professor Ragnar SPÄRCK (*Universitetets Zoologiske Museum, Copenhagen, Denmark*).
- Professor Victor van STRAELEN (*Institut Royal des Sciences Naturelles de Belgique, Bruxelles, Belgium*).
- Professor Robert L. USINGER (*University of California, Berkeley, California, U.S.A.*).

OPINION 243

DESIGNATION, UNDER THE PLENARY POWERS, FOR
THE NOMINAL GENUS "CARABUS" LINNAEUS,
1758 (CLASS INSECTA, ORDER COLEOPTERA)
OF A TYPE SPECIES IN HARMONY WITH
CURRENT NOMENCLATORIAL USAGE

RULING :—(1) Under the Plenary Powers, all type selections for the nominal genus *Carabus* Linnaeus, 1758 (Class Insecta, Order Coleoptera) made prior to the present Ruling are hereby set aside and *Carabus granulatus* Linnaeus, 1758, is hereby designated as the type species of this genus.

(2) The generic name *Carabus* Linnaeus, 1758 (gender of name : masculine) with the type species designated in (1) above, is hereby placed on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* as Name No. 669.

(3) The specific name *granulatus* Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the combination *Carabus granulatus*, is hereby placed on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology* as Name No. 62.

I.—THE STATEMENT OF THE CASE

On 15th December 1939 the Royal Entomological Society of London published Part 6 of the work entitled *The Generic Names of British Insects*. This Part contained the Sixth Report of the Society's Committee on Generic Nomenclature¹ covering the First Report of its Coleoptera Sub-Committee². This Report was concerned exclusively with the names of genera belonging to the Family CARABIDAE, species of which occur in the United Kingdom. Attached to the Sub-Committee's Report was a statement in which it had formulated recommendations for the use, by the International Commission, of its Plenary Powers in the case of the names of seven genera belonging to the foregoing Family. The Sub-Committee submitted at the same time a more detailed statement regarding the names of the genera of this Family represented in the British Fauna which had been prepared for it by Mr. H. E. Andrewes, one of its members. The present *Opinion* is concerned only with the first of the applications so submitted. This relates to the generic name *Carabus* Linnaeus, 1758. At the time of the publication of the foregoing Part of the *Generic Names of British Insects*, the hour was not opportune for the submission to the International Commission by the Society of recommendations relating to problems of zoological nomenclature, for at the outbreak of war in Europe in September 1939 the records of the International Commission had been evacuated from London to the country as a precaution against the risk of destruction through air raids and the London Secretariat of the Commission had been temporarily closed, while, for its part, the Society, like other learned institutions with headquarters in London, was pre-occupied with pressing administrative problems. Accordingly, at that time no steps were taken by the Society to submit to the International Commission the recommendations formulated by the Coleoptera Sub-Committee. In

¹ At the time of the publication of this Report the Composition of the Committee on Generic Nomenclature was as follows :—Francis Hemming, C.M.G., C.B.E. (*Chairman*); K. G. Blair, D.Sc.; F. W. Edwards, M.A., Sc.D., F.R.S.; O. W. Richards, M.A., D.Sc.; N. D. Riley; W. A. F. Balfour-Browne (*Secretary*).

² The composition of the Coleoptera Sub-Committee at this time was as follows :—H. E. Andrewes; W. A. F. Balfour-Browne; K. G. Blair, D.Sc.; M. Cameron; Sir Guy Marshall, C.M.G., D.Sc., F.R.S.

August 1943, however, Mr. Hemming notified Mr. N. D. Riley, who by this time had become Secretary to the Royal Entomological Society of London that the Commission would be glad to receive these recommendations. Thereupon these were submitted to the Commission by Mr. Riley on behalf of the Society on 23rd August 1943. For the purposes of the Commission the present application was treated as consisting of two documents, each an extract from Part 6 of the *Generic Names of British Insects*, the first from the paper written by Mr. H. E. Andrewes, the second, from the covering Report of the Coleoptera Sub-Committee. The application so constituted, was as follows:—

(a) On the type of the genus "Carabus" Linnaeus, 1758 (Class Insecta, Order Coleoptera)

By H. E. ANDREWES
(Leicester)

Carabus Linnaeus, 1758.

- Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) 1 : 413.
 Latreille, 1810, *Consid. gén. Anim. Crust. Arach. Ins.* : 426.
 Curtis, 1833, *Brit. Ent.* 10 : pl. 446.
 Hope, 1838, *Col. Man.* 2 : 47.
 Solier, 1848, in Truqui and Baudi. *Studi Ent.* 1 : 58.
 C. G. Thomson, 1875, *Opusc. Ent.* 7 : 640.
 Andrewes, 1935, *Ann. Mag. nat. Hist.* (10) 16 : 14.
 Breuning, 1932—1937, *Best.-Tab. Europ. Col.* 104—110.

Latreille cited as type *Carabus auratus* Fab., 1801 (=Linn., 1761), a species not originally mentioned by Linnaeus, so that the citation is invalid. Curtis, 1833, and Westwood, 1838, made *Carabus violaceus* Linn. the type. C. G. Thomson divided the genus into a number of subgenera, and, following Hope, made *C. granulatus* Linn. the type of his subgenus *Carabus* s.s. Most recent writers, including Breuning in his revision quoted above, also treat *C. granulatus* Linn. as the genotype. For the reasons given in my recent paper, it is very desirable that the International Commission should express an *Opinion* confirming Hope's citation and overruling that of Curtis.³

³ The above is an extract from the paper entitled "The Generic names of the British CARABIDAE" prepared by Mr. H. E. Andrewes for the Coleoptera Sub-Committee of the Committee on Generic Nomenclature of the Royal Entomological Society of London. At the date in question the composition of the above Sub-Committee and of the above Committee was as shown in footnotes 1 and 2 above.

(b) Proposed suspension of the " Règles " for " Carabus " Linnaeus,
1758 (Class Insecta, Order Coleoptera)

By SIR GUY A. K. MARSHALL, K.C.M.G., D.Sc., F.R.S.
(formerly Director, Imperial Institute of Entomology, London),

H. E. ANDREWES
(Leicester),

W. A. F. BALFOUR-BROWNE
(formerly Professor of Entomology, Imperial College of Science and
Technology, London),

K. G. BLAIR, D.Sc.
(formerly Deputy Keeper of the Department of Entomology, British
Museum (Natural History)),

and

M. CAMERON
(British Museum (Natural History), Zoological Museum, Tring)

In the case of the following generic name the strict application of the rules embodied in the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature would cause a serious, and quite unnecessary, disturbance in existing practice and would, in our view, cause greater confusion than uniformity. For this name we are in favour of a partial suspension of the Rules. The object we have in view can be effected by a very slight departure from the strict application of the Code.

The portion of Mr. Andrewes' paper relating to this name was written by him in consultation with us, and we are in full agreement both with his conclusions and with his recommendations, which we summarise as follows :—

The Generic Name " Carabus " Linnaeus, 1758

The first valid type-citation is that of *Carabus violaceus* Linnaeus, 1758, by Curtis, 1833. Hope, 1838, cited *Carabus granulatus* Linnaeus, 1758, and C. G. Thomson, 1875, in his revision of the genus, made this the type of the subgenus *Carabus* s.s. ; in this action he has been followed by all subsequent writers. To maintain Curtis' citation would cause considerable confusion in the subgenera of this genus, with a profuse literature, so that it is very desirable that this citation should be set aside in favour of that of Hope.

We are therefore of the opinion that in the exercise of the Plenary Power conferred upon them by the International Zoological Congress the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature should

as soon as possible take the steps laid down by the Congress for the promulgation of an *Opinion* to the following effect :—

The name *Carabus* Linnaeus, 1758 (type *Carabus granulatus* Linnaeus), is added to the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology*. The designation by Curtis, 1833, of *Carabus violaceus* Linnaeus as the type is therefore to be set aside, and that by Hope, 1838, of *Carabus granulatus* Linnaeus is to be accepted.⁴

II.—THE SUBSEQUENT HISTORY OF THE CASE

2. As soon as possible after the receipt of this application, to which the Registered Number Z.N.(S.) 158 was given, steps were taken to prepare the two papers in question for publication in the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* which had recently been established as a means for bringing to the attention of zoologists applications submitted to the International Commission for decision. The papers in this case were sent to the printer in September 1944, but, owing to difficulties arising from paper rationing, shortage of labour at the printing works and similar causes, publication did not actually take place until 28th February 1947 (Andrewes, 1947, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **1** : 247 ; Marshall, Andrewes, Balfour-Browne, Blair & Cameron, 1947, *ibid.* **1** : 248).

3. The publication of this application in the *Bulletin* elicited a letter of support from Dr. Th. Mortensen (*Universitetets Zoologiske*

⁴ The above is an extract from the First Report of the Coleoptera Sub-Committee of the Committee on Generic Nomenclature of the Royal Entomological Society of London. At the time of the submission of the above Report, the Coleoptera Sub-Committee was composed as in footnote 2. At the same period the Committee on Generic Nomenclature was composed as given in footnote 1. On receiving the Sub-Committee's Report, the Committee on Generic Nomenclature, in their Sixth Report, recommend the Council of the Royal Entomological Society of London to transmit the Coleoptera Sub-Committee's recommendations to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature for favourable consideration. This recommendation was approved by the Council and, on the publication of the Committee's Sixth Report by the Society on 15th December 1939, the Sub-Committee's recommendations were forwarded to the International Commission by the Council of the Society.

Museum, Copenhagen) who in a letter dated 8th April 1947 indicated his approval of the action proposed by writing the word "Yes".

4. *Issue of Public Notices* : On 29th September 1947 a notice of the possible use, by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, of its Plenary Powers in this case was issued to the serial publications prescribed by the Ninth International Congress of Zoology, Monaco, 1913. The publication of this notice elicited no objection so far as concerned the merits of the action proposed, but a letter dated 19th March 1948 was received from Dr. Richard E. Blackwelder (*United States National Museum, Washington, D.C., U.S.A.*) expressing the view that the material furnished by the applicants was insufficient.

III.—THE DECISION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

5. The present application was considered by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature at the Fourteenth Meeting of its Paris Session held at the Sorbonne in the Amphithéâtre Louis-Liard on Monday, 26th July 1948 at 2030 hours. The following is an extract from the Official Record of the Proceedings of the International Commission giving a summary of the remarks made by the Acting President (Mr. Francis Hemming) in introducing this case and of the subsequent discussion (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 4 : 445) :—

THE ACTING PRESIDENT (MR. FRANCIS HEMMING) said that the only objection which had been lodged against the action proposed in this case was similar to, and came from the same source⁵ as, the objection which the Commission had just considered in the case of the name *Bradycellus* Erichson, 1837. The Commission would no doubt give due weight to the objection so advanced. In his (the Acting President's) opinion, it was necessary, however, to bear in mind that the genus *Carabus*

⁵ See paragraph 4.

Linnaeus was one of the best known of all the genera in the Class Insecta ; in consequence this generic name fell in the class of names, to applications regarding which the Commission should give special consideration with a view to securing, *inter alia*, that long-forgotten or long-ignored type selections should not be permitted to introduce instability by disturbing current nomenclatorial practice. In this case, therefore, his recommendation was that the Commission should use their Plenary Powers to grant the desired relief.

GENERAL AGREEMENT was expressed with the views outlined by the Acting President.

6. The decision of the Commission in this case is set out as follows in the Official Record of its Proceedings (Paris Session, 14th Meeting, Conclusion 11) (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 4 : 445—446) :—

THE COMMISSION agreed :—

(1) to use their Plenary Powers :—

(a) to set aside all selections of the type species of the genus *Carabus* Linnaeus, 1758 (Class Insecta, Order Coleoptera) made previous to the present decision ;

(b) to designate *Carabus granulatus* Linnaeus, 1758, to be the type species of the foregoing genus ;

(2) to place the generic name *Carabus* Linnaeus, 1758, with the type species specified in (1) (b) above, on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* ;

(3) to place the trivial name *granulatus* Linnaeus, 1758 (as published in the binominal combination *Carabus granulatus*) on the *Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology* ;

(4) to render an *Opinion* recording the decisions specified in (1) to (3) above.

7. The following are the original references for the names which appear in the decision set out in the immediately preceding paragraph :—

Carabus Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. nat.* (ed. 10) 1 : 413

granulatus, *Carabus*, Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) 1 : 413.

8. The gender of the generic name *Carabus* Linnaeus, 1758, referred to in the decision quoted in paragraph 6 above, is masculine.

9. The decision taken in the present case was reported to, and approved by, the Section on Nomenclature of the Thirteenth International Congress of Zoology, Paris, 1948, at its Sixth Meeting held on 26th July 1948 (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 5 : 113).

10. The Ruling given in the present *Opinion* was concurred in by the sixteen (16) Commissioners and Alternate Commissioners present at the Paris Session of the International Commission, namely :—

Beltrán *vice* Cabrera ; Boschma ; Bradley ; di Caporiacco ; Hemming ; Hindle *vice* Jordan ; Jorge *vice* do Amaral ; Kirby *vice* Stoll ; Lemche *vice* Dymond ; Mansour *vice* Hankó ; Metcalf *vice* Peters ; Riley *vice* Calman ; Rode ; Spärck *vice* Mortensen ; van Straelen *vice* Richter ; Usinger *vice* Vokes.

11. The Ruling given in the present *Opinion* was dissented from by no Commissioner or Alternate Commissioner present at the Paris Session.

12. At the time of the adoption of the Ruling given in the present *Opinion*, the expression prescribed for the second portion of the binomen which constitutes the scientific name of a species was the expression " trivial name " and the *Official List* reserved for recording such names was styled the *Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology*, the word " trivial " appearing also in the title of the *Official Index* reserved for recording rejected and

invalid names of this category. Under a decision taken by the Fourteenth International Congress of Zoology, Copenhagen, 1953, the expression "specific name" was substituted for the expression "trivial name" and corresponding changes were made in the titles of the *Official List* and *Official Index* of such names (1953, *Copenhagen Decisions zool. Nomencl.* : 21). The changes in terminology so adopted have been incorporated in the Ruling given in the present *Opinion*.

13. The prescribed procedures were duly complied with by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature in dealing with the present case, and the present *Opinion* is accordingly hereby rendered in the name of the said International Commission by the under-signed Francis Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, in virtue of all and every the powers conferred upon him in that behalf.

14. The present *Opinion* shall be known as *Opinion Two Hundred and Forty-Three* (243) of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature.

DONE in London this Fourteenth day of December, Nineteen Hundred and Fifty-Three.

*Secretary to the International Commission
on Zoological Nomenclature*

FRANCIS HEMMING

